

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled STAPLER FOR FORMING STAPLES TO VARIOUS SIZES (Attorney Docket No. 010398-9060-02), the specification of which is attached hereto.

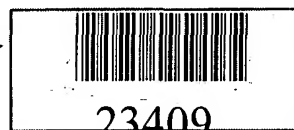
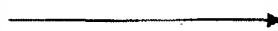
I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioners associated with the customer number identified below to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith; and request that the Office direct all communications in or pertaining to this application to:

Customer Number

23409



PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of the United States applications listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.

09/590,283

Filing Date

11 June 1999

Status

Pending

I hereby claim priority benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of the provisional U.S. patent application listed below:

Application Serial No.

60/138,601

Filing Date

11 June 1999

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first joint inventor: David P. Adams

Inventor's signature: *David P. Adams*

Date: 5/27/03

Residence: Barrington, Illinois

Citizenship: USA

Post Office Address: 21142 N. Woodland Avenue  
Barrington, Illinois 60069

Full name of second joint inventor: Kenneth J. Bargo

Inventor's signature: *Kenneth J. Bargo*

Date: 5/28/03

Residence: Chicago, Illinois

Citizenship: USA

Post Office Address: 4859 Berteau Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60641

Full name of third joint inventor: Valentin Fridmanovich

Inventor's signature: *Valentin*

Date: 5/28/03

Residence: Forest Hills, New York

Citizenship: USA

Post Office Address: 64-35 Yellowstone Blvd.  
Forest Hills, New York 11375

T:\CLIENTA\010398\9060\PO041559.1